

# ***Mapping the Human Toxome by Systems Toxicology Using ED as Proof of Concept***

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**Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Konstanz, Germany**

*About 1/3 funding each from industry, philanthropy and research funding*



**The Bernice Barbour Foundation**



THE ESTHER A. & JOSEPH KLINGENSTEIN FUND, INC.

...and individuals





**The 10.000 foot perspective**

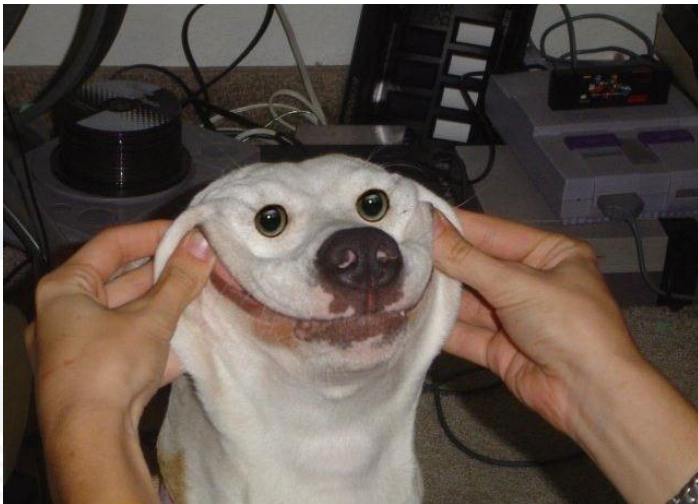




**100,000 in commerce  
<3% tested for  
endocrine or  
reproductive tox.**

**Human endocrine  
health effects  
including cancer?**

# ***Endocrine disruption***



## ***ECVAM***

- Task force
- QSAR workshop
- Validation
- ReProTect

## ***CAAT***

- White paper
- NIH consortium
- Conference Rome  
17 Dec 2012



## *The pipeline*

**13 articles published  
(5 responses in Nature /  
Science)**

**6 articles in preparation**

**7 workshop reports published  
6 reports pending**

**3 workshops planned**

## *Ambassadors*

**Bas Blaauboer**

**Alan Goldberg**

**Thomas Hartung**

**Marcel Leist**

# 7'2010: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Validation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tools

## Courage for Simplification and Imperfection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assessment of "Endocrine Disruption"

*Daniel R. Dietrich*

Human and Environmental Toxicology and CAAT-Europe, University of Konstanz, Germany

***All current toxicological information to date strongly suggest that the routine rodent models are inadequate for detection of EAS and assumed endocrine effects in humans***



# *Hershberger & uterotrophic*



- **Not sensitive enough**
- **Unsuitable validation design**
- **Abrogation of peer-review**



## Animal test Reprotox



8 months

\$0.6 million/chemical

3,200 animals/chemical

64% positive

why?

Estimate human 2-3% positive

## Problem inter-species differences

mice, rat, rabbit, guinea pig predict each other  
with 60% correlation

# ***Diethylstilbestrol (DES)***

- Stilbene, synthesized in 1938, with structural similarities to E2
- Prescribed from the 1940's to beginning of 1970's to pregnant women to prevent spontaneous abortion and preterm delivery
- Estimates: 5-10 million fetuses exposed in the USA and Europe combined
- Teratological effects: Urogenital abnormalities in male and female offspring incl. infertility, clear-cell cervico-vaginal cancer in female offspring



# **Diethylstilbestrol (DES)**

## **A more detailed analysis**

- ▣ > 80% of female offspring with urogenital abnormalities when exposed to cumulative dose  $\geq 12000$  mg within 1<sup>st</sup> 9w of gestation
- ▣ Urogenital abnormalities and clear-cell cervico-vaginal cancer in female offspring when exposed to cumulative dose  $\geq 5000$  mg within 1st trimester.
- ▣ However, median cumulative of 2530 mg over whole gestational period NOT associated with urogenital abnormalities in female offspring
- ▣ DES binds to human sex hormone binding globulin (shbg) with >250 lower affinity than E2
- ▣ DES has a relative binding affinity to ER $\alpha$  of 17% of E2 – E2 displacing capacity at high endogenous concentrations



# Diethylstilbestrol (DES)

## A resource untouched?

- ▣ The US Diethylstilbestrol Adenosis (DESAD) Project reviewed approx. 5000 cases (of 5-10 Mio exposed?)
- ▣ Of the cases reviewed, the incidence for urogenital abnormalities ranges between 1,57 and 65% (control 0,79%)!
- ▣ The reported risk of clear-cell cervico-vaginal cancer ranges between 1/1000 and 1/10'000 (Giusti et al 1995)
- ▣ Current data strongly suggest that even high doses of DES (short exposure period) or moderate doses (prolonged exposure period) had NO ADVERSE EFFECTS!
- ▣ What could a detailed investigation offer?
  - Patient data re consumption and possible clinical data re levels: pharmacokinetic parameters
  - NOAEL calculations for specified time-periods of exposure





## ***Lessons learnt from „causal“ EAS exposure and effect examples in humans***

- ▣ The example of DES thus elegantly demonstrates that even for the most potent EAS in humans (with regard to endocrine disruption) known to date, it is primarily a “high dose, specific activity, and prolonged time during a critical period principle” that governs the manifestation of “endocrine disruptive effects” in humans.***
- ▣ The current data IN HUMANS for steroids employed as contraceptives, SERMs, glitazones (4mg/d) or ketoconazole (600-1000mg/d) DO NOT provide any evidence that even in short-term overdose situations during gestation, endocrine disruptive effects occur in the offspring***
- ▣ All current toxicological information to date strongly suggest that the routine rodent models are inadequate for detection of EAS and assumed endocrine effects in humans***

**Serious doubt remains as to a major impact of more than a few chemicals as ED**

**But society wants problem addressed**

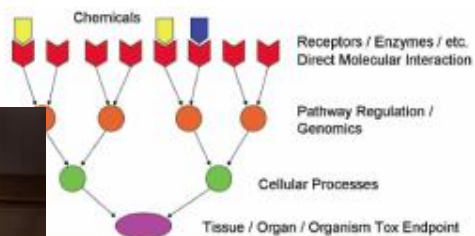


# ***NAS vision report Tox-21c***



EPA/100/K-09/001 | March 2009  
www.epa.gov/osa

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Plan for Evaluating the Toxicity of Chemicals



***“With an advanced field of regulatory science, new tools, including functional genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, high-throughput screening, and systems biology, we can replace current toxicology assays with tests that incorporate the mechanistic underpinnings of disease and of underlying toxic side effects.” M.A. Hamburg, FDA 2011***



***“We propose a shift from primarily in vivo animal studies to in vitro assays, in vivo assays with lower organisms, and computational modeling for toxicity assessments”  
F. Collins, NIH, 2008***

## *Initiatives implementing Tox-21c*

Organization	Approach	Purpose	Outcome
US EPA & Tox21 (ToxCast Program)	High-throughput testing	Chemical prioritization (initially)	“Biological signatures”
Hamner Institute	Case studies	“Just do it”	Proof-of-principle
NIH project (CAAT-US)	Pathway mapping	Pathway ID & annotation	Human Toxome



# Tox-20c

**EBT**



# Tox-21c

**Omics, high-content, HTS  
Bio-informatics  
& -engineering**

**Pathways  
of Tox (PoT)  
*Human  
Toxome***

**Integrated  
Testing  
Strategies  
*ITS***

**Organo-typic  
cultures  
*Human-on-  
Chip***

# Scientific roadmap for the future of animal-free systemic toxicity testing

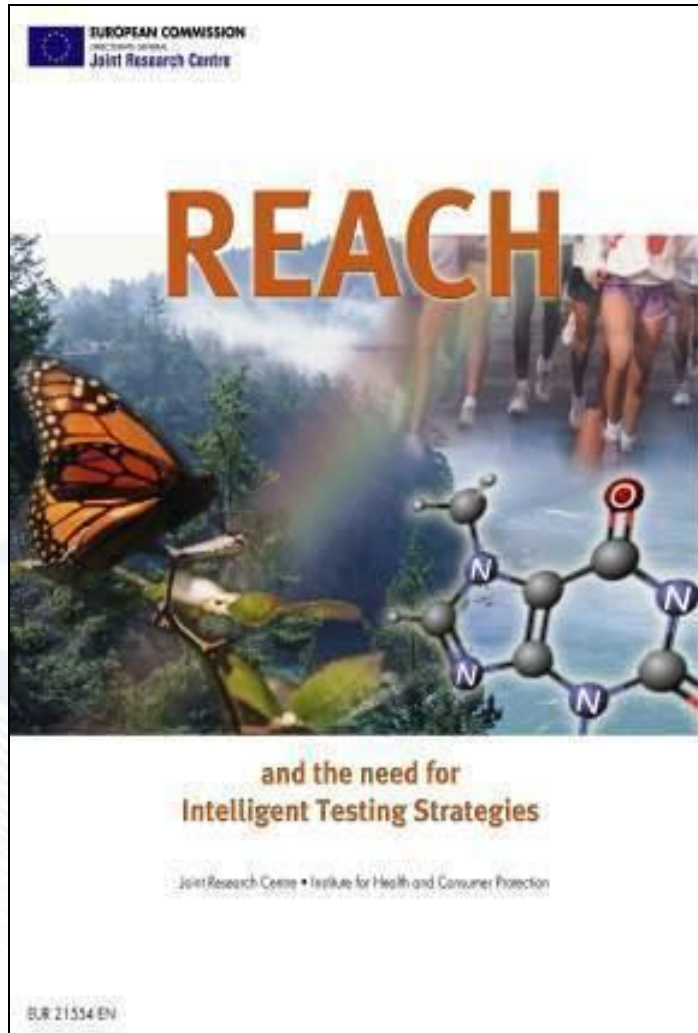


## US Stakeholder Forum 30-31 May 2013

### Hosted by FDA CFSAN

## Looking for further interested partners!!!

# *Integrated Testing Strategies*



- Key contribution to REACH implementation process
- Use of different informations, not stand-alone replacement



*Just became available (AltWeb or ALTEX website)*

## **Food for Thought ...** **Integrated Testing Strategies for Safety Assessments**

*Thomas Hartung<sup>1,2</sup>, Tom Luechtefeld<sup>1</sup>, Alexandra Maertens<sup>1</sup>, and Andre Kleensang<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, CAAT, Baltimore, USA; <sup>2</sup>University of Konstanz, CAAT-Europe, Germany

***WoE, EBT, ITS.... Similar problems,  
but not the same***

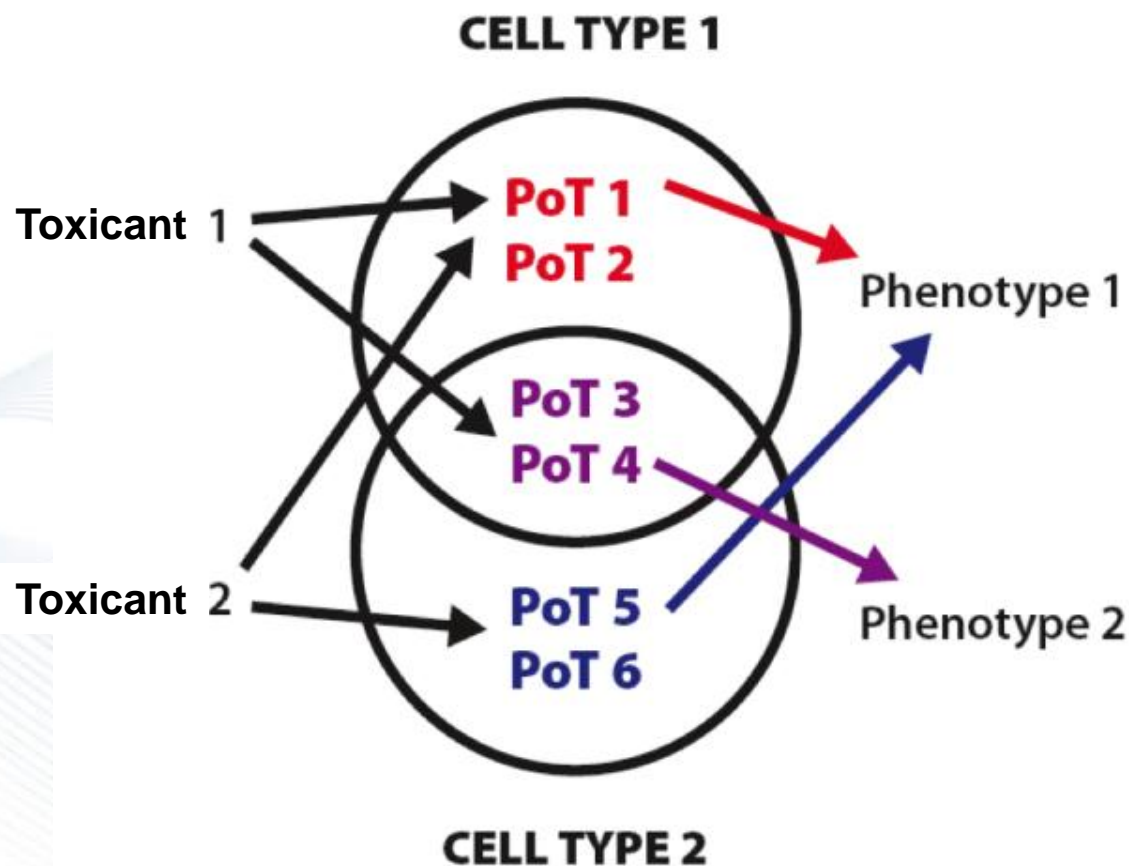
**all: quality and data integration problem**

**EBT/WoE retrospective -- ITS prospective**

**WoE pragmatic -- EBT / ITS formalized**



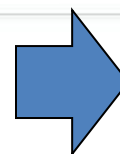
# *The concept of (finite number of) pathways of toxicity*



**Annotation to:**

- Hazard
- Toxin (class)
- Cell type
- Species

**Comprehensive list (Human Toxome)**



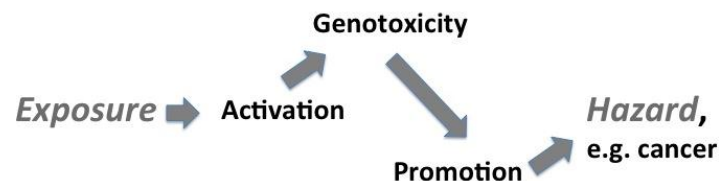
**Negatives**

### A) Phenomenological Toxicology



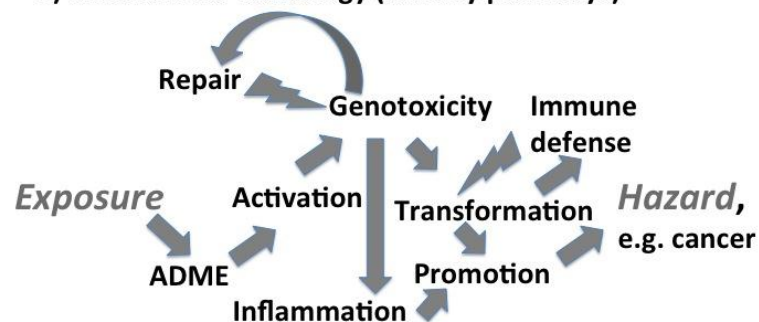
Causality supported by correlation and e.g. Bradford-Hill criteria

### B) Mode of Action Toxicology (e.g. Adverse Outcome Pathways)



Causality supported by experimental intervention, e.g. Koch-Dale approaches

### C) Mechanistic Toxicology (toxicity pathways)



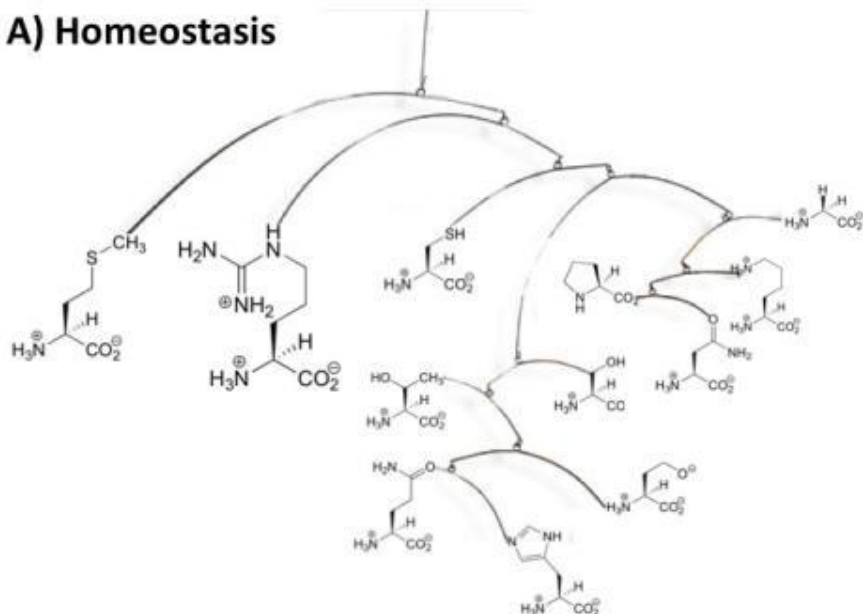
Causality supported by simulation and other bioinformatic tools

### D) Systems Toxicology (resolution on PoT and fluxes)

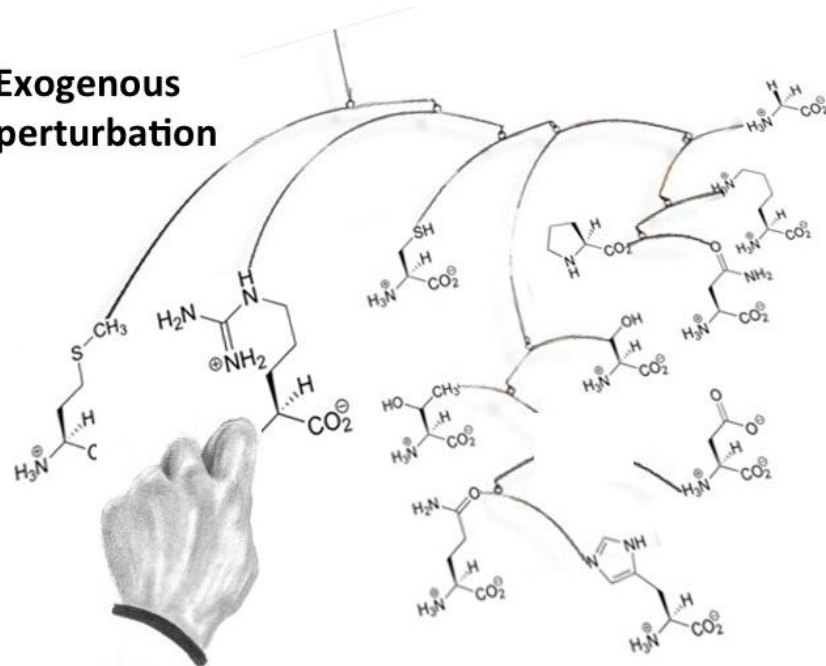


Systems Toxicology approaches

### A) Homeostasis



### B) Exogenous perturbation



## Use for PoT identification:

- Homeostasis under stress, i.e. signatures of tox
- Critical cell infrastructures
- Network knowledge
- Reference models
- Reference toxicants



# NIH Transformative Research Grant: *Mapping the Human Toxome by Systems Toxicology*

**Consortium:** Johns Hopkins (Hartung / Yager)  
Brown (Boekelheide)  
The Hamner (Andersen)  
Georgetown (Fornace)  
Agilent (Rosenberg)  
EPA ToxCast (Kavlock, Dix)



BROWN



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY





# Mapping PoT from metabolomics and transcriptomics

In vitro systems

Toxicological endpoints

Model Systems Characterization

In vitro treatments

omics data  
generation

HC omics data  
Metabolomics  
& Transcriptomics

Software tools

Software for Statistics and  
Pathways

Visualization Tools

Pathways of Toxicity

Signature of Toxicity  
Analysis

PoT Concept  
Development

Human Toxome  
Database

Pathway Validation

IV-IV Extrapolation

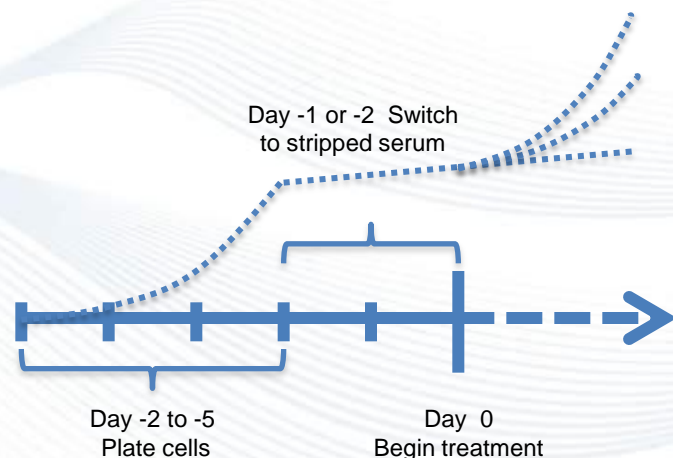
Toxcast, other data



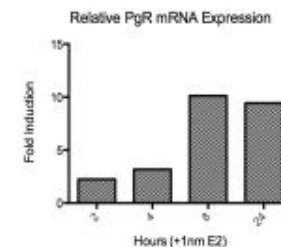
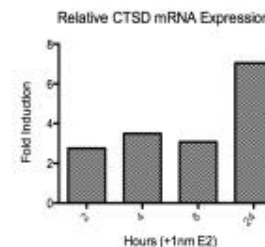
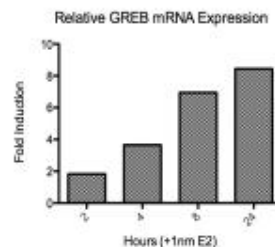
## *(Pre-)Validated work*

- Robust protocols, good cell models
  - Regulatory acceptance available or in progress
  - Available reference substances
  - Thresholds of adversity defined
- MCF-7 cells (currently undergoing validation by ICCVAM) &
  - Initial set of endocrine disrupting chemicals selected from a priority list of 53 reference compounds identified by ICCVAM

**In vitro systems**



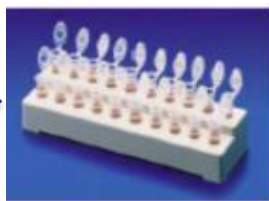
**Cell culture SOP**



**Gene Expression – Timecourse**  
1nM estradiol – 2, 4, 8, and 24 hours



MCF-7 cell culture and E2 exposure



Sample prep and metabolite extraction



Data acquisition (Q-ToF)

**omics data generation**

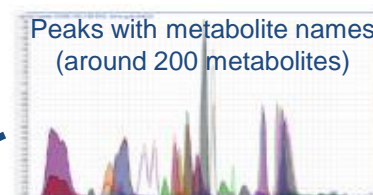
Untargeted

Targeted



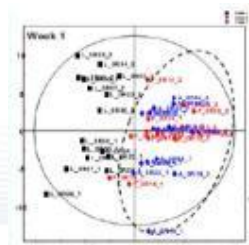
Peaks with mass & RT (more than 6,000 features)

Peak/feature extraction with Naïve data mining algorithm



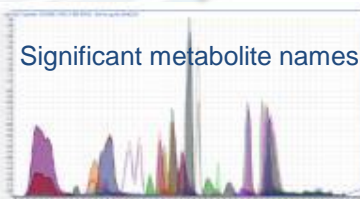
Peaks with metabolite names (around 200 metabolites)

Metabolite peak extraction with database searching



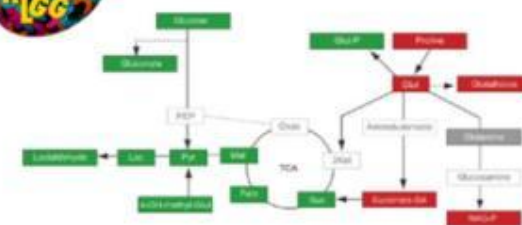
Bio-statistical analysis (e.g. ANOVA, PCA and clustering analysis)

## Workflow for Metabolomics

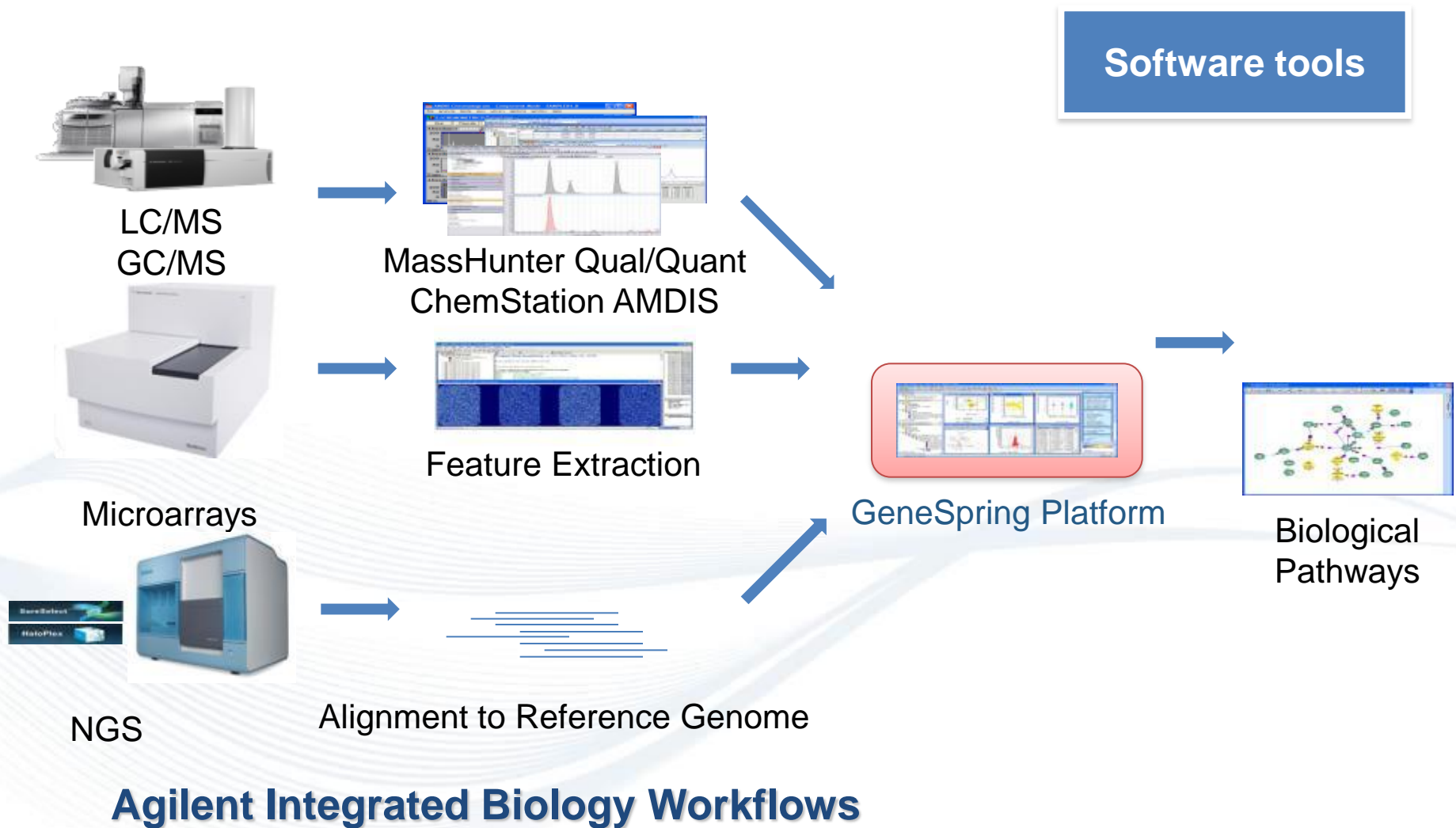


Significant metabolite names

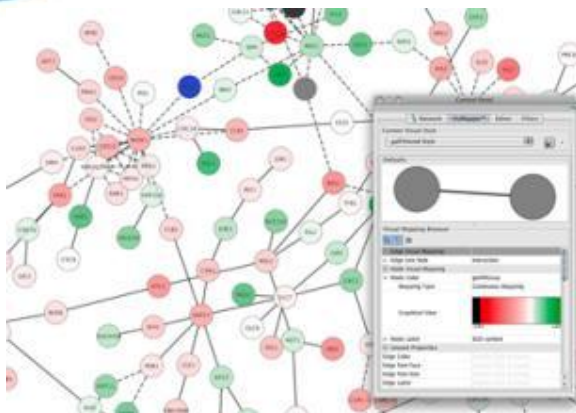
Metabolites Identification (only for untargeted) and confirmation (for both approaches)



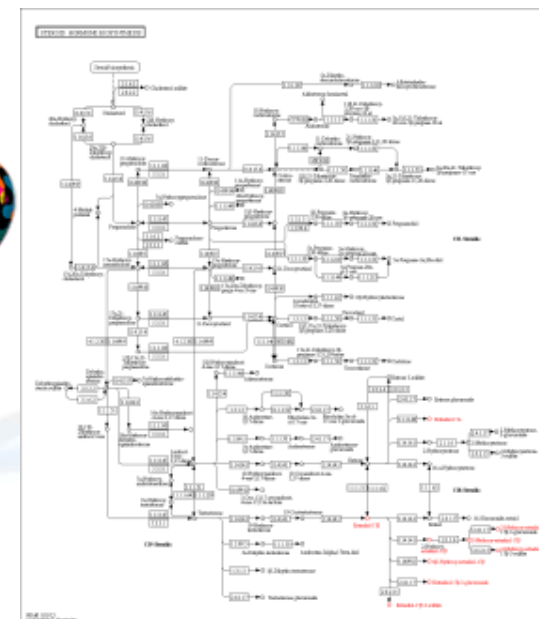
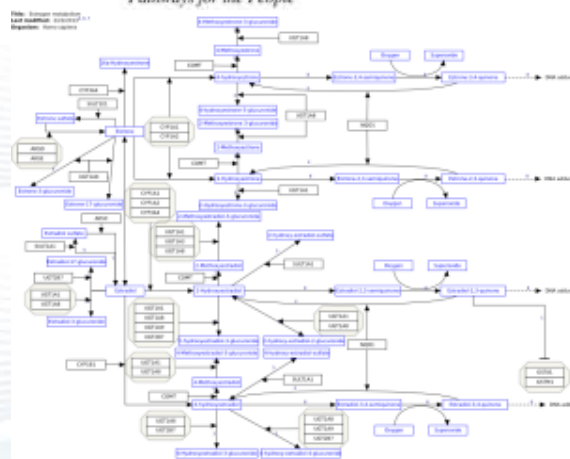
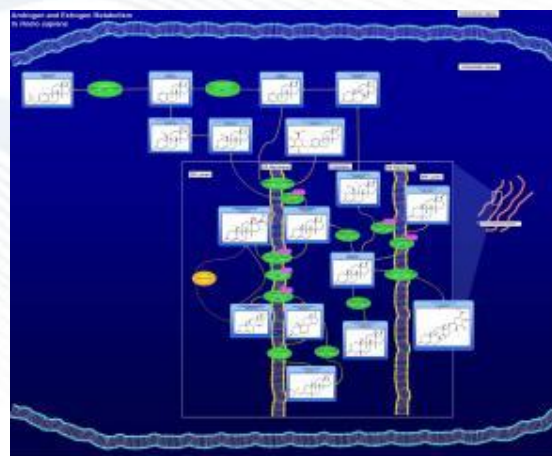
Data interpretation (e.g. Pathway analysis)





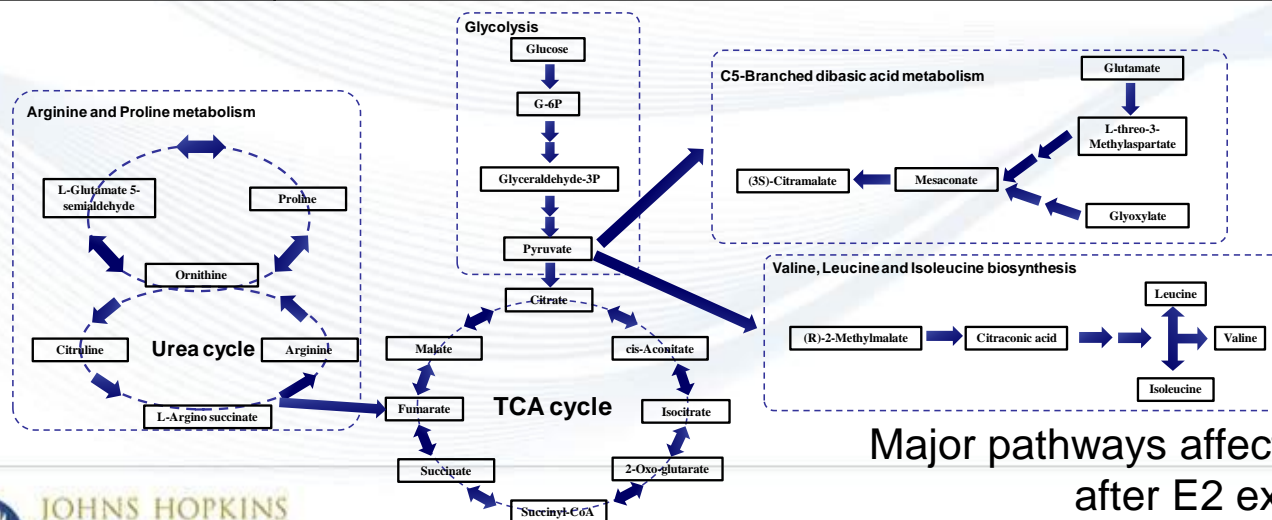


## Software tools



## Pathways of Toxicity

Significant Metabolites	Related Pathways
Malate	Citrate cycle (TCA cycle)
Fumarate	Citrate cycle (TCA cycle); Amino acid metabolisms
Aconitate	Citrate cycle (TCA cycle); C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
Pyruvate	Citrate cycle (TCA cycle); Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis; Amino acid metabolisms
D-glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate	Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis
Lactate	Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis
Citraconic acid	Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis; C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
L-threo-3-Methylaspartate	C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
Glyoxylate	C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
(R)-2-Methylmalate	Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis; C5-Branched dibasic acid metabolism
Arginine	Arginine & Proline Metabolism
Valine	Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis
L-Glutamate 5-semialdehyde	Arginine & Proline Metabolism
Ornithine	Arginine & Proline Metabolism
Leucine/Isoleucine	Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis



Major pathways affected in MCF-7 cells  
after E2 exposure

# PROPOSAL FOR A TEMPLATE, AND GUIDANCE ON DEVELOPING AND ASSESSING THE COMPLETENESS OF ADVERSE OUTCOME PATHWAYS

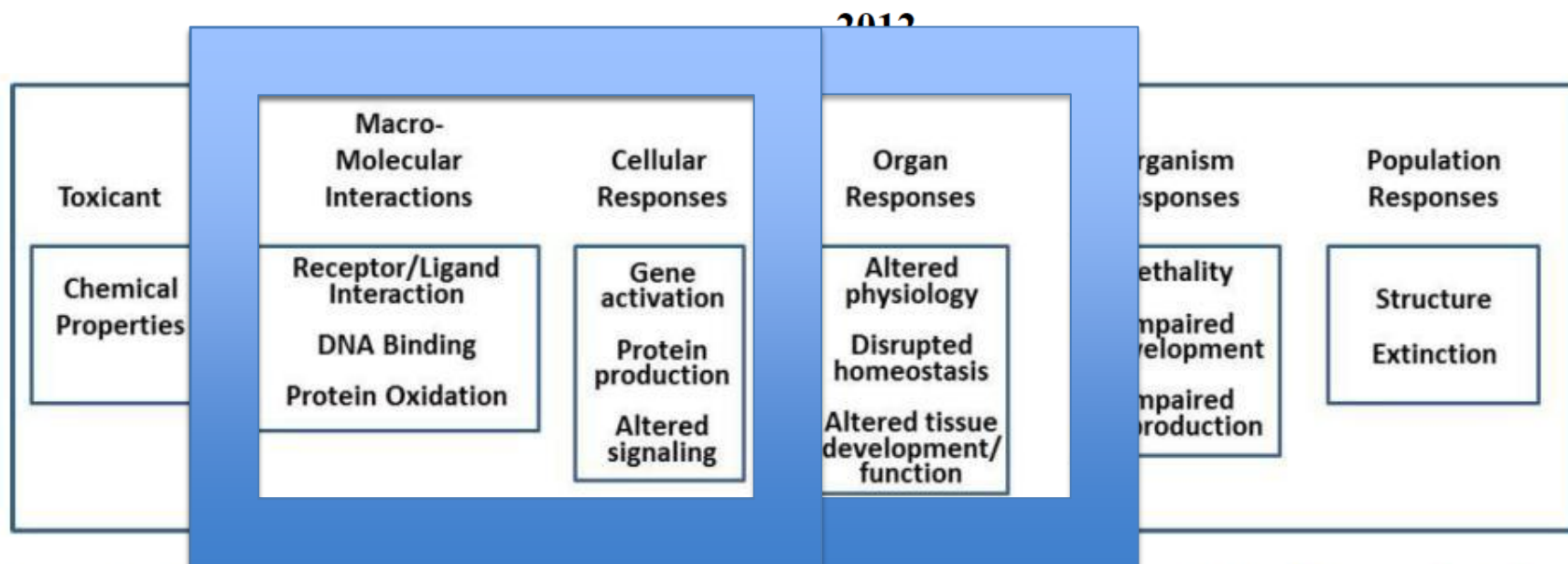


Figure1. A schematic representation of the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) illustrated with reference to a number of pathways.

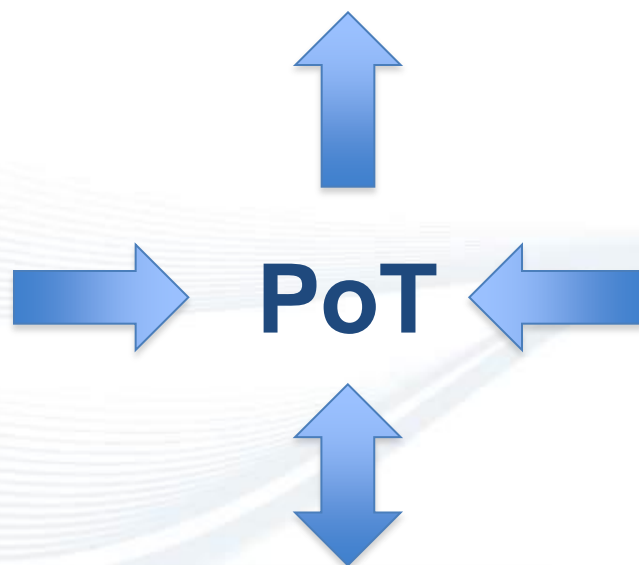
PoT

## Workshop on the Concept and Tools for Pathways of Toxicity October 10 -12, 2012, Baltimore, MD

# Human Toxome database

### Content side:

- Mol.biol.
- Biochem.
- Omics SoT
- Tox Mechan.



**PoT**

### User side:

- Regulation
- Probabilistic RA
- Systems Toxicology
- Virtual patient

Existing  
databases



# PoToMaC - The Pathways of Toxicity Mapping Center



Transformative  
Research Grant:  
*Mapping the  
Human Toxome  
by Systems  
Toxicology*



European branch?



7 companies, 3 stakeholders



2 Mar 2012

***“Driven both by legislative mandate and scientific need, a new suite of in vitro and cell culture-based animal-free methods are gaining a foothold in toxicology labs.”***

## LIFE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES

Produced by the Science/AAAS Custom Publishing Office

### Toxicology

# Animal-Free Toxicology

## Sometimes, in Vitro is Better

The next time you use shampoo, air freshener, or moisturizing cream, consider this: How do you know it's safe? In all likelihood, whatever toxicologic screening its component ingredients were subjected to involved laboratory animals, the method of choice for decades and the industry's reigning “gold standard.” Yet as Bob Dylan once put it, the times, they are a-changing. Animal-based testing is expensive and time-consuming, morally and ethically troubling, and most significantly, often a poor predictor of human toxicity. Animals aren't going anywhere just yet. But their numbers are dropping. Driven both by legislative mandate and scientific need, a new suite of in vitro and cell culture-based animal-free methods are gaining a foothold in toxicology labs. **By Jeffrey M. Perkel**

**One key player in the modernization of toxicology screening is automation.**







*1st International Forum towards  
Evidence-Based Toxicology (EBT)  
October 15-18, 2007, Como, Italy*



## *Evidence-based Toxicology*

### **“Evidence-based medicine goes toxicology!”**

**Hoffmann and Hartung “Toward an evidence-based toxicology”,  
Human Exp. Tox., 2006**



**Mar 2011: US EBTC**  
**Oct 2011: Secretariat at CAAT**  
**Jan 2012: First conference hosted by EPA**

## **Kick-off meeting of the Evidence-Based Toxicology Collaboration (EBTC) Europe**



**ebtc**  
Evidence-based Toxicology Collaboration

*In conjunction with Eurotox Congress 2012 (Stockholm, Sweden)*

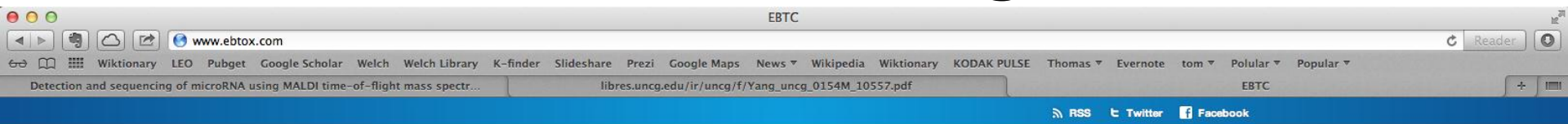
**June 17, 2012**  
**15:30h - 17:30h**

**Radisson Blu Royal Viking Hotel • Vasagatan 1, Stockholm, Sweden**

Complimentary Registration: <http://www.ebtox.com>



# EBT Collaboration Steering Committees



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[Meetings & Symposia](#)

[Steering Committee](#)

## What is Evidence-based Toxicology?

The Evidence-Based Toxicology (EBT) Collaboration has recently taken up the challenge of translating evidence-based approaches from medicine to toxicology. The Collaboration has closely coordinated steering committees in the US and Europe with members drawn from government agencies, academia, and industry. [More...](#)



### LATEST NEWS

#### **US EBTC Receives Informal Tutorial on Systematic Reviews**

The US EBTC Steering Committee held an informal tutorial on systematic reviews (SRs) on July 23, 2012 at Johns Hopkins S...

#### **Kick-off meeting of the Evidence-Based Toxicology Collaboration (EBTC) Europe**

In conjunction with Eurotox Congress 2012 (Stockholm, Sweden) June 17, 2012 | 15:30h - 17:30h Radisson Blu Royal Vi...

## *Definition of Validation*



**ALTEX 27 (2010) 253-263**

# **Evidence-Based Toxicology – the Toolbox of Validation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**

*Thomas Hartung*

Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Dept. Environmental Health Sciences, Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), Doerenkamp-Zbinden Chair for Evidence-based Toxicology, Baltimore, MD, USA, and Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Konstanz, Germany



**Knowledge:**

**- PoT**

**- MoA**

**Just became available (AltWeb or ALTEx website)**

## **Workshop Report**

# **Evidence-based Toxicology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Opportunities and Challenges\***

*Martin L. Stephens<sup>1</sup>, Melvin Andersen<sup>2</sup>, Richard A. Becker<sup>3</sup>, Kellyn Betts<sup>4</sup>, Kim Boekelheide<sup>5</sup>, Ed Carney<sup>6</sup>, Robert Chapin<sup>7</sup>, Dennis Devlin<sup>8</sup>, Suzanne Fitzpatrick<sup>9</sup>, John R. Fowle III<sup>10</sup>, Patricia Harlow<sup>11</sup>, Thomas Hartung<sup>1</sup>, Sebastian Hoffmann<sup>12</sup>, Michael Holsapple<sup>13</sup>, Abigail Jacobs<sup>11</sup>, Richard Judson<sup>14</sup>, Olga Naidenko<sup>15</sup>, Tim Pastoor<sup>16</sup>, Grace Patlewicz<sup>17</sup>, Andrew Rowan<sup>18</sup>, Roberta Scherer<sup>1</sup>, Rashid Shaikh<sup>19</sup>, Ted Simon<sup>20</sup>, Douglas Wolf<sup>14</sup>, and Joanne Zurlo<sup>1</sup>*

# **Perspectives on Validation of High-Throughput Assays Supporting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Toxicity Testing**

*Richard Judson<sup>1</sup>, Robert Kavlock<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Martin<sup>1</sup>, David Reif<sup>1</sup>, Keith Houck<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Knudsen<sup>1</sup>, Ann Richard<sup>1</sup>, Raymond R. Tice<sup>2</sup>, Maurice Whelan<sup>3</sup>, Menghang Xia<sup>4</sup>, Ruili Huang<sup>4</sup>, Christopher Austin<sup>4</sup>, George Daston<sup>5</sup>, Thomas Hartung<sup>6</sup>, John R. Fowle III<sup>7</sup>, William Wooge<sup>8</sup>, Weida Tong<sup>9</sup>, and David Dix<sup>1</sup>*

Valid(ated) models and reference substances



Pathway Identification

# Food for Thought ... Mechanistic Validation

New  
ALTEX

*Thomas Hartung<sup>1,2</sup>, Sebastian Hoffmann<sup>2,3</sup>, and Martin Stephens<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), Baltimore, MD, USA;

<sup>2</sup>University of Konstanz, CAAT-Europe, Germany; <sup>3</sup>seh consulting, Paderborn, Germany

Proof of pathway coverage  
Reproducibility



***Mechanistically  
validated***



## *Johns Hopkins is the right environment for EBTC secretariat*



***The difficulty lies, not in the new ideas,  
but in escaping from the old ones.***

**John Maynard Keynes**

**(1883 - 1946)**